

IAPS Skiing Championships

Race Formats and Rules

1. Introduction

The IAPS Skiing Championships bring together schools from across a diverse membership in a professionally delivered yet inclusive event. While racing is central, each format has been designed by IAPS, with years of member feedback, to suit the varied abilities and school types within our community.

Our goal is to provide a competitive environment that also encourages participation and enjoyment. Races are run by the Ski School to professional standards, while formats are set and approved by IAPS to reflect the needs of our schools.

Please note that the race formats may be adjusted depending on entry numbers. The following outlines the standard competition structure and rules. The final formats will be confirmed closer to the event.

2. Competition Format Overview

The event consists of:

1. Time Trial – for ability assessment and team placement.
2. Team Parallel Slalom – relay-style head-to-head race.
3. Giant Slalom Championship Race (Advanced) – main competitive category.
4. Giant Slalom Plate Race (Intermediate) – secondary category for developing skiers.

3. Time Trial Format

The purpose of the time trial is to give schools the opportunity to assess the ability of their skiers and to assist in selecting appropriate teams for the subsequent races.

Each skier will complete a single run on a modified Giant Slalom course, with schools running in a randomly allocated order.

This run will not be timed for competitive ranking and will not count towards any race results. Instead, it serves purely as an assessment.

Following the completion of the time trial, the race school will review all recorded times and determine a cut-off point. This information will be provided to schools as a guide to help decide whether teams should be entered into the Championship or Plate competition.

Format:

- One run per skier on a modified Giant Slalom course.
- Schools run in randomly allocated order.
- Run is not scored; it is for assessment only.

IAPS Skiing Championships

Race Formats and Rules

4. Giant Slalom Format

Championship and Plate Races

- Both competitions consist of two runs on a Giant Slalom course (~23 gates).
- The Championship Race is for advanced teams; the Plate Race is for intermediate teams.

Team Rules

Team Composition

- Teams must be from the same school.
- 3-4 skiers per team (minimum 3, maximum 4).
- The oldest skier in the team on race day determines the team's age group.
- A skier's race times can only count once and for one team.

Scoring

- The best three times from three different skiers are added to form the team total.
- For mixed teams, at least one time from each gender must count.
- In the finals, the fastest single run from each of the best three skiers counts towards the final team score.

Multiple Teams

- Schools may enter more than one team per category (e.g., U11 Girls A & B).

Team Submission and Changes

- Requests for changes between qualifying and finals must be submitted by 17:00 on Tuesday 10 March 2026.
- Changes after this deadline will not be permitted.
- How to submit your race entries will be confirmed at a later date.

Age and Category Rules

- The Championships will feature two age categories: U11 and U13.
- Fastest skier placings: Age category is determined by the competitor's school year as of 1 September 2025.
- Team placings: The oldest skier in the team on race day determines the team's age group.
- Courses will be set to suit the relevant age groups.
- Individual "fastest skier" medals are awarded based on the competitor's actual age category, even if they competed in an older team category.
- "Fastest skier" medals will be awarded in both the Championship and Plate competitions.

IAPS Skiing Championships

Race Formats and Rules

Awards

- Team medals: 1st–3rd in each category.
- Individual medals: Fastest skier in each category.
- Mixed teams will compete for their own medals, separate from single-gender team categories.

Bib Selection

- Bibs assigned by random selection.
- Bibs distributed to ski instructors before races.

Course Inspection

- Racers may inspect the course before each run.
- No skiing the course; slipping/snowploughing only, at very slow speed.
- Shadow turns beside gates or skiing through gates during inspection may result in disqualification.
- The race will be opened by a forerunner to test course and timing.

Start Area and Gate Procedure

- Controlled by a Start Marshall who checks helmets, bibs, gloves, etc.
- Racers must be at the start gate in good time.
- Only one coach or team manager allowed in the start area per skier.
- Jackets left at the start should be collected and taken to the finish by school representatives.
- Bibs collected in the finish area after second run; if a skier does not finish, they must return their bib to the collectors.
- Starting procedure:
 - Racer enters start gate, poles over the wand.
 - Starter calls “Ready... 3, 2, 1, Go!”
 - Racer has ~10 seconds to start after “Go!”

Obstructions on Course

- If a racer is obstructed, they must inform the Finish Referee immediately.
- A re-run may be granted at the referee’s discretion.

Adverse Weather

- The Giant Slalom is the priority race and may be rescheduled to different days if required.

IAPS Skiing Championships

Race Formats and Rules

- Where possible, the Giant Slalom will be prioritised, with other races rearranged or cancelled to accommodate it.

5. Parallel Slalom format

The event will run with between 16 and 24 teams, depending on entry numbers and interest. This may allow some schools to be invited to enter a second team. Barbarian teams may also be permitted.

The Parallel race, while competitive and keenly contested, is primarily designed for enjoyment. IAPS represents a broad and diverse membership, and the race remains inclusive. Where Barbarian teams can help encourage participation, IAPS will support their formation, provided approval is sought in advance.

Overview

- Two parallel Giant Slalom-style courses will be set side-by-side: one marked with blue gates, one with red gates.
- Teams race in a relay format, with each skier completing one run.
- Competitors race head-to-head; the fastest down each course wins that run.
- The event will run as a straight knockout competition, with both Championship and Plate brackets.

Teams and Eligibility

- Ideally team members must be from the same school.
- Barbarian teams may be formed.
- Each team will consist of five skiers.
- A competitor may only race for one team in the Parallel Slalom.
- Schools may initially enter one team in any configuration, with mixed gender and age permitted.

Awards

- Team medals for 1st–3rd place in both Championship and Plate brackets.

Bibs and Start Order

- Team starting order will be assigned randomly.
- Skiing orders are done on the schools choice.

Course Safety and Procedures

- Course inspection, start area protocols, and safety requirements follow the same rules as the *Giant Slalom* section.
- Helmets and appropriate race equipment are mandatory.
- One slope will be used, with two flagged courses (blue and red).

IAPS Skiing Championships

Race Formats and Rules

Weather Contingency

- The Parallel Slalom may be postponed or cancelled due to bad weather.
- The Giant Slalom takes scheduling priority; other races may be rearranged or cancelled to accommodate it.